

Salem Lemartine 9:30 8/4/68

Processional Hymn 19
*Call to Worship Pg. 197
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture I John 1st chapter N.E.B.
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

CONSIDER FRI 7:30

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 316
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 262
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

Save us O God, by your name; and judge us by
Your strength.

Hear our prayer, O God: give ear to the words of
our mouths.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the
Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He is
our propitiation for our sins: and not for ours
only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us
all. Amen.

Advent wreath. No charge but donation of 75¢
or 1.00 will be accepted. Thanks to ladies for
cup and lets all come out for big time. Bring
greens and ribbons if have.

DON'T BUT THANK OFFERING IN
REGULAR OFFERING ENVELOPES.
ENVELOPES IN BACK OF CHURCH.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 15, 1970

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise 14

*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Lord, we beseech Thee, absolve thy people from their offenses, that through thy bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bonds of those sins which by our frailty we have committed. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture----I John 1

*The Gloria Patri

*The Collect For The Day (Unison)

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by thy Holy Spirit, that being made ever mindful of the end of all things, and the day of thy just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here, and dwell with thee forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation 205

The Sermon----"The Light"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response 315

*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

Thank Offering and Harvest Home will be observed Nov. 22. If you have any offerings please bring them.

Nov. 22 is the closing date for the Church Women United Christmas project. This year money is being collected for diapers to be sent to Kentucky. There is a box in the back of the Church for donations for this worthy project.

This afternoon at 3:00 P.M. we will have our family Advent Wreath Fellowship. We will make our wreathes and then have our meal of soup and crackers. There is no charge for the wreath, but if you care to donate 75¢ or \$1.00 to defray the expenses you may do so. If you have any greens or evergreen branches to use for decorating, please bring them along. We hope all of you will join us in the fun. Wear your old clothes and bring the entire family.

We would like to start a nursery for pre-school children during the worship service. If you are interested in helping with this program, please call Shirley Link--582-4798.

The Light of the World

Text: I John 1; 7

N.E.B. But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, then we share together a common life, and we are being cleansed from every sin by the blood of Jesus His Son.

The progress and growth of light since the beginning of time has been utterly amazing. We know for instance that in the time of Christ candles and oil lamps were the sources of light. We know this because of the reference Jesus Himself made to them in several passages of the New Testament. From the candle, man advanced to the kerosene lantern, and then to gas lights, and finally to electricity. But the one thing that was and is peculiar to each one of these lights is the fact that each one possessed a source or substance that made it light. They each possessed a power or something that caused it to light. And they all consumed something.

Not only was this peculiar to different types of light, but we can make the comparison to our Saviour as He is mentioned in our Scripture today. We said that each light had a source or substance that made it light. The candle had a wax or tallow substance with a wick running through it, and when the wick was lit, the candle gave off light. We can still see this when we use candles for Christmas services, or when we want to be romantic and eat by candlelight. The oil lamps are the same principle with a wick set in the oil and when it is lit it gives off light. Electricity is practically the same with the exception that a filament of wire is used inside of a vacuum tube and the power is run to the bulb by means of wires. These wires in turn are controlled by a switch, which turns it off or on as we desire. The progress in lighting has not yet reached its end, since man has discovered a new source of energy, and this is the atom. There are several experimental power sub-stations now in use with atomic energy being the main source. Electricity is to be found in some of the most remote parts of the earth. You and I do not give too much thought to it, as to where it comes from or what makes it work since it is a very common thing to

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us in our day and age. Just imagine what some of our forefathers would say if they could see the progress that has been made in the last fifty or sixty years. Now all of this talk about lights and lighting is about the physical light, but what of the spiritual light. We read in the Old Testament about the Hebrew people and how time after time they turned from God and worshipped idols. They seemed to be searching for soething. The way they went about it, it appeared as though they were groping in the dark. Basically they were awaiting the promised Messiah, the "Light of Salvation", as David called Him. It wasn't until 1900 and some odd years ^{ago} that this dawn came with the birth of a baby. Here it is significant to note that this birth was heralded by a bright and shining light. The light we call the star of Bethlehem. This was the light the Jews were seeking, but again they rejected it. The strange thing is that they had the light all along, but they never realized it. God was the light. God still is the light. But because of their unbelief God sent another light to show man the way, and this was Jesus. But even with the physical presence of the Son of God, man still did not believe that this was the promised light of the world. Many people today still do not accept either the light or the Light that ^{was} ~~God~~ sent into the world. The trgedy of this is that people simply will not accept what they cannot see. We cannot see electricity except very briefly in a thunderstorm. But does this mean that it does not exist? I can't show you the power that is in the wires to this light, but I can prove it by turning the switch in the back of the Church. However we cannot do this with Jesus. I can tell you about Him and what has been written about Him and what He can and has done in the lives of people, but if you choose not to believe, then this is your choice. The thing that I think these people are really asking, is, How can we get this light? The only answer we can give is that it must be accepted in our lives. We must accept Jesus into our hearts and lives and then we can have this light.

We all know that electricity does not come about by itself. It comes from a source. Something must produce it. In other words it must be generated. To produce physical light we need a generator. But what about spiritual light? What is needed to produce it? Basically there are two things we need, faith and prayer. ~~We discussed faith last Sunday so therefore we will only touch on it briefly. We~~

need faith because without it we would truly walk in darkness. And we need prayer because by continued prayer we are able to maintain our faith. So you see it is a combination of the two that helps us to generate the light for ourselves and others. In order for us to have faith we cannot have a doubt in our minds about God or His Son Jesus Christ. We must believe honestly, sincerely and implicitly. Jesus tells us to have faith as a mustard seed and we can move mountains. Which reminds me of the story of the woman who wanted to try this, so before she went to bed she prayed that the hill in back of her house would be removed. When she awoke she went to the window and looked out at the hill and remarked, "Well there you are just like I knew you would be when I went to bed." This is definitely the reverse of what Jesus meant. When we think of whole hearted faith we should think of the illustration that is used in the New Testament. It involves the woman who thought that if she could but touch the hem of the Masters robe she would be healed, and healed she was because of her complete faith. This is the faith we all need, but unfortunately we mostly possess a faltering faith.

The other attribute we need is prayer. Here again we are dealing ~~once again~~ with a very great power. If any of us have ever doubted the power of prayer then we need but to read and hear of some of the things that prayer has accomplished. One such incident has ^{CAME} come out of ^A this very congregation. ^{I SERVED.} Most of ~~you probably know of it and how prayers offered~~ ^{THE PRAYERS OFFERED} for a little boy, miraculously brought about an unexplainable change in his condition. We can't prove that prayer ^{HEART ENLARGED & SUNDAY AFT. CHANGES} does these things, but how can we explain away the results after praying? Many people pray and if they feel that they do not get an answer immediately then god does not answer prayer. Or else they only pray when they are in need. In this respect some people are like the little boy whose mother asked him if he prayed when he awoke in the morning. He replied no, because I can take care of myself in the daytime. It's at night that I need watched over. Prayer should be as natural for any Christian as brushing his teeth. We should be able to do it almost by instinct. If we are called upon to pray publicly, we should be able to do so without hesitation. Yet it is surprising how many people become embarrassed when asked. This is really unnecessary since to pray, requires neither a command of the kings

English nor a large vocabulary. Too many people think that praying is long words and big phrases and long prayers. This is perhaps the fault of many preachers who have done this. A prayer can be just as effective and elegant with two short sentences as with two paragraphs. So we should each one start learning to pray easier and more often so that it becomes natural for us.

Then too many of us are like the little girl in Church who attended a wedding. The minister said let us pray and every one bowed their heads. Everyone that is except the little girl. She looked around and asked her mother, "What are they all looking for?" Too often we bow our heads in the attitude of prayer and look for nothing. We should remember the publican bowed his head in the Temple looking for the mercy of God and found it.

Then we know that the light is utilized or consumed. The oil in the lamp is burned up as is the wax from the candle. The filament in a light bulb gradually weakens and breaks and the bulb burns out. This is the physical consumption for light. But what about the spiritual consumption? How can we consume or utilize it? For one thing we cannot consume it or use it up in the same sense that a flame consumes wax or oil. But we can consume it by taking it into our hearts and lives. We can consume it by using it as we live our lives. The comparison between physical light and spiritual light is also different in the fact that physical light consumes something and uses it up, whereas spiritual light is consumed by the individual and is not all used up but is passed out and on to others. This is not only beneficial but a beautiful thing. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" If He is the light for all of the world, then how could His light ever be completely consumed? In the Gospel of John, the author tells us that, "The light shines on in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." This light has been shining since the beginning of time, and man has never been able to overcome it or consume it. Yes Jesus is the light of the world. Perhaps we should say that He is not only a light Himself but He points us to the Greater light which is God. But we must accept Him and we must believe. Otherwise our faith and our prayers mean nothing and are in vain. We need this light in our lives, and we need to try to

let this light into the lives of others.

In the musical Sord of Music, the Mother Superior of the convent in which some of the story takes place, has a saying, when God shuts a door, He opens a window. This is very true, yet, isn't it more of a fact that it has been man down through the ages who has shut the door on God? But then God has indeed opened a window. He opened the window and let in the light of the world, Jesus Christ. The chorus of a hymn we sang in Sunday school tells us, Come to the light tis shining for thee; Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me, once I was blind but now I can see: The Light of the world is Jesus. Let us come to that Light today, and find ^{there} ~~xxx~~ peace and comfort for our weary lives. Let us walk in that light each day of our lives. Let us pray.